

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /145 W

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R 101739Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 570

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 2153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: RESUMED INTER-PARTY TALKS ON FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE

REF: BELFAST 152

1. OCTOBER 9 RESUMPTION OF INTER-PARTY TALKS, LIKE EARLIER SESSION, WAS TYPIFIED BY CAUTIOUS APPROACH SEEKING AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON NON-CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND LEAVING GUT ISSUES TO LATER STAGES. LEADERS CONSIDERED AND REPORTED "A BROAD MEASURE OF UNDERSTANDING" ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM PREPARED BY SUB-COMMITTEE (BELFAST 152). PROGRAM DESCRIBED AS HAVING AS BROAD OBJECTIVES ACHIEVING OF RISING STANDARD OF LIVING, SUSTAINED FULL EMPLOYMENT AND GREATEST POSSIBLE MEASURES OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. PARTICULAR MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED WILL TOUCH ON UNEMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PRICES, INCOMES, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND POVERTY. REVISED PROGRAM TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SECOND-SESSION DISCUSSION IS NOW TO BE PREPARED. INTER-PARTY MEETING SET NEXT SESSION FOR OCTOBER 16. YESTERDAY'S MEETING

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SOMEWHAT ABBREVIATED DUE TO WHITELAW'S REQUIRED PRESENCE IN

BLACKPOOL FOR MEETING PRIOR TO CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE.

2. FORMAL AGREEMENT NOT TO DISCUSS TALKS IN PUBLIC HAS FORMALLY EXPIRED. ULSTER POLITICIANS INVOLVED ARE HOWEVER MAINTAINING REMARKABLY BLAND FACADES ABOUT "STEADY PROGRESS" SOME CONCERN BEING EVIDENCED HERE AT SLOW PACE OF DELIBERATIONS. APPARENT STRATEGY OF ALLOWING LEADERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS AS WELL TO SAVOR A PERIOD OF REGULAR POLITICAL GIVE AND TAKE AND TO SEE ADVANTAGES OF EFFORTS AT COOPERATION BEFORE TAKING UP GUT ISSUES SEEMS TO BE HAVING WHOLESOME EFFECT. EVIDENT FROM TELEVISION DEPARTMENT OF PARTICIPATING LEADERS THAT THEY ARE AT THIS STAGE TRYING VERY HARD TO GET ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE SYSTEM WORKING. THEY ARE ON THE WAY TO ACHIEVING AN ENHANCED STATURE PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS ABSTAINERS THAT THEY WILL NOT LIGHTLY GIVE UP. FARTHERDOWN LINE THERE WILL BE PRESTIGIOUS AND NOT UNIMPORTANT WELL-PAID JOBS FOR SOME AS WELL. AT MOMENT ONE IS IMPRESSED BY SINCERITY OF ALL CONCERNED IN EFFORT AND LACK OF SHRILL COMMENT THAT HAS SO TYPIFIED ULSTER SCENE OF LATE.

3. NEXT PHASE DISCUSSION CONTENTIOUS ISSUES (POLICE, DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, COUNCIL OF IRELAND NUMERICAL DISTRIBUTION FOR PARTY STRENGTH ON EXECUTIVE) WILL BE IMMEASURABLY TOUGHER. EACH PARTY HAS GIVEN ITS VIEWS UNILATERALLY TO WHITELAW. THESE ISSUES WILL BE TAKEN UP JOINTLY AFTER HE HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER SEPARATE VIEWS. IT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR THAT THESE ISSUES WILL NECESSARILY BE ON AGENDA OF OCTOBER 16 MEETING. WHITELAW HIMSELF WAS CAREFUL TO ADD TO HIS SATISFACTION ON "STEADY PROGRESS" A CAVEAT THAT "THIS IS A LONG SLOG I WOULD NOT PUT ANY TIME LIMIT UPON IT".  
PENBERTHY

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